

Voices for CHANGE



OXFAM
Canada

>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> FALL 2021 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>

IN THIS ISSUE >>> WOMEN FARMERS...PAGE 2 >>> WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES...PAGE 3
>>> KINDNESS FROM OUR FRIENDS...PAGE 4 >>> EQUALITY FOR ALL...PAGE 5 >>> LEAVING A GIFT...PAGE 6

MESSAGE FROM LAUREN

It's the power of your gift and an integrated approach to emergency response, long-term programs and campaigning for change that will help end injustice and poverty. Within these next pages, you'll see some highlights of the projects and campaigns you're supporting. I also encourage you to check out our website for more news and stories, including our new campaign that's tackling inequality in the Canadian fashion industry and exposing the truth behind the clothes sold. The women who make our clothes, no matter how hard they work, are trapped in a cycle of poverty—one that's been deepened by COVID-19. Please consider adding your name to demand that Canadian brands pay a living wage at oxfam.ca/what-she-makes/join-us/. In Canada and around the world, your actions are leading to change. Once again, thank you!



COVID-19 RESPONSE IN INDIA

On a single day in June, more than 6,000 people lost their fight with the virus—including 551 doctors. New cases have risen to as many as 84,000 in one day.

At most risk, are India's most vulnerable people. Migrant workers, the vast homeless population, and those without regular jobs or unemployment benefits. For them, there is no reliable source of clean water, proper sanitation facilities, or the soap, sanitizers and face masks needed to protect themselves.

And that is where your generosity is making a difference. With your donations, Amitabh is leading Oxfam's COVID-19 response in India.

Our immediate priority is to supply hospitals and health workers with medical equipment and PPE, so they can continue treating those who are sick. This

includes oxygen tanks, digital thermometers and beds.

At the same time, we are racing the clock to avoid an even worse humanitarian disaster—building handwashing stations, distributing soap, sanitizer and food.

Much of our work has been with women and girls, elderly and disabled people, refugees, migrant labourers, and those people living in areas that have also faced vicious cyclones.

We are grateful to our community of donors worldwide who have stepped up to help India in this terrible time. We know that we can count on the dedicated support of the entire Oxfam community to deliver aid to those who need it most—in India and around the world.

WOMEN FARMERS, A KEY TO THE FUTURE

Across the world, in Guatemala, Oxfam and five local partner organizations are funding the creation of a green economy led by small-scale enterprises. In Alta Verapaz, one of the poorest areas in all of Latin America, women and youth knew that small-scale sustainable business was key to their future.

And that reducing the community's reliance on extractive industries was key to not only their community's future — but the planet's.

Elsa Pop Barrientos talks about the profound impact the Camino Verde project has had on her life.

“Being a woman farmer is hard, because sometimes there is inequality between men and women. There are women that suffer. And there are others that now have this new opportunity to progress, to learn more with Camino Verde.

I've learned many different things about economic empowerment, our rights and equality, and that we can be leaders and train other women.

I've started working with cacao and now have a high-quality product that's green, pure and organic. We pay a fair price, and it's become renowned in the market.

With this project, we want to support our people and help them get the pay they deserve.

I feel free, I feel happy, I have my own earnings. I'm independent and that's something that gives relief to women: to be free.”

To read more about the Camino Verde project, check the website page: oxfam.ca/project/camino-verde/



WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES OF CLIMATE ACTION

What does a feminist approach to climate action mean?

It's based in the knowledge that — as with all crises — the climate crisis will hit women the hardest.

That's because people with the fewest resources — those who are least responsible for causing climate change — will be the least able to adapt.

The majority of the world's poor are women. Women are also the small-scale farmers, whose crops — and family's food — is most vulnerable to unstable weather systems. They are also the water collectors, who have to travel further and further to access water, often putting themselves at risk.

That's why Oxfam is working in partnership with hard-working and resourceful women and communities to develop permanent strategies for facing the changing climate.

Sarah, 55, is a farmer in Nyanyadzi, Zimbabwe. The sole provider for her family, Sarah's livelihood is at the mercy of changing weather patterns.

“When we expect it to rain, in October or

November, it doesn't rain,” she explains. “So what we have planted doesn't grow.”

After Cyclone Eline, the canals that Sarah and her family relied on to irrigate their land were covered with silt. *“We woke up to a field full of sand with all the crops gone,”* she remembers.

Oxfam and partner organizations launched a project to support communities to build climate resistance.

Sarah received lessons in water management and irrigation infrastructure. She learned how to build **gully plugs** and **soil traps**, and was trained in **gabion basket making**. Gabions are structures used to control erosion, which stop silt from moving into the canals.

With the canals functioning as they should, Sarah's farm has thrived.

“I am a good farmer,” she says. “If I get enough water, I have a really good farming season.”

Women are not powerless in the face of climate change. With the tools and training you send them, through Oxfam, they are part of a future where everyone can thrive.



KINDNESS FROM OUR FRIENDS



Photo Credit: Oxfam

Friends are people who are there for us in times of need. And these friends of Oxfam have swiftly and unfailingly jumped into action to help us respond when we've needed it the most.

Their support lets us jump into action in times of crisis: whether that's supercharged storms, intense droughts, civil unrest — or the global pandemic. Our wildfires here in Canada are a reminder to Canadians — thousands of people can lose everything in a few seconds.

In the developing world, it's almost impossible for people to rebuild without some help. These dedicated individuals, groups and companies answered the call:

- On August 4, 2020 more than 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded in Beirut port, killing over 180 people and rendering 300,000 people homeless. **Jamal Taleb and the team at Western Concrete Lifters Inc.** instantly fundraised to support Oxfam's relief efforts.
- The youth organization, **Helping Hands of Peel**, was devastated to learn about the deadly wave of COVID-19 deaths in India. Anushka and her

group raised more than \$1,500 with generous contributions from the community to support Oxfam's distribution of medical equipment, protective gear, and hygiene kits.

- **Lori Hanson and her daughter Sasha, along with the support of family and friends**, raised more than \$8,285 to help the millions of people affected by Iota, a category 5 hurricane that devastated Nicaragua's Caribbean coast.

We are deeply grateful to these and other Oxfam supporters for being there when we needed it the most.

If you are inspired by any of these fundraisers we invite you to join them. Fundraising for Oxfam is one of the most powerful things you can do to help us fight the injustice of poverty and inequality around the world. Scan this [QR code](#) for more information or join us at oxfam.ca.

THANK YOU!



Photo Credit: Oxfam



EQUALITY FOR ALL: MAKING AN IMPACT FROM AND FOR CANADA

Injustice and inequality are at the root of poverty everywhere in the world. We will never stop campaigning to fight the inequality that leaves the most vulnerable people — especially women — bearing the brunt of each disaster, each crisis, and ongoing economic discrimination.

That's why Oxfam is leading the charge for a People's Vaccine.

Under the current system, there are countries on this planet who may not receive a COVID-19 vaccine until 2024. This means three more years of women and poor people bearing the brunt of the pandemic, on the frontlines of healthcare and in their homes. And three more years of gender-based violence on the rise.

In Canada and internationally, Oxfam has been calling for a COVID-19 vaccine free of charge and accessible to everyone — free of the patents that increase the cost beyond what poor countries can manage.

Our campaign has gained a lot of traction, when first the U.S. and then France's Emmanuel Macron announced they would support a waiver of intellectual property rules.

In India, this announcement gives Oxfam's Executive Director, Amitabh Behar, new hope. *"Now we can begin to see the possibility of a breakthrough."*

As Amitabh says, *"Now we need every rich country still blocking a waiver on intellectual property rules to join President Biden and offer hope for India and many other countries that we are indeed not being left behind."*

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE LAWS AND PRACTICES THAT KEEP PEOPLE TRAPPED IN POVERTY. VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [OXFAM.CA](https://www.oxfam.ca) TO KNOW MORE AND TAKE ACTION.

LEAVING A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

By planning a legacy gift today, you can make a big difference in the future. Legacy gifts include a provision in your Will, trusts, life insurance, RRSP's/RRIF's and TFSA's, and gifts of stocks and securities now and in the future through your estate.

Many people augment their lifetime giving in support of Oxfam Canada's work around the world by including our organization in their estate plans. This decision is incredibly

meaningful to us, and we are immensely grateful to all who are considering this decision.

When we have conversations with people about their ongoing commitment to Oxfam and the amazing work the organization does, we talk about the many ways people can make a legacy gift through their Wills. RRIFs are one thing we also encourage people to think about. Unless RRIFs are designated to your spouse or to a charity, up to 50 per cent of their value will

be taxed and collected by the government. Many choose to have their money go to a charity close to their heart, like Oxfam Canada, not the government! After the age of 71 you can also choose to give the minimum prescribed amount of your RRIF to charity, a wonderful way to start giving now.

For more information about leaving a gift in your Will you can reach us by phone at **613-627-8634** or by email at **giftplanning@oxfam.ca**.



DID YOU KNOW?

Your privately-owned stocks and securities can help build a more equitable world for all. By donating your shares directly to Oxfam, you save on the capital gains tax plus you will receive a charitable tax receipt for the fair-market value of the stock or securities. Talk to us to learn more about this tax efficient way to support Oxfam and beat poverty.

Scan this QR code for more information on donating securities or visit **WWW.OXFAM.CA**

